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CURRENT LITERATURE

MINOR NOTICES

Botanical expedition to southern Brazil.¹—The recently published volume on the results of the botanical expedition of the Royal Academy of Science of Vienna to southern Brazil in 1901 contains an account of the Pteridophyta and Anthophyta by Professor R. VON WETTSTEIN in collaboration with several prominent specialists. The conditions under which the expedition was undertaken, the personnel of the exploring party, the detailed itinerary, and the general physical features of the country visited are briefly set forth in the *Einleitung* and *Reisebericht*. The major part of the volume embodies the taxonomic results of the expedition; the larger families treated and the cooperating botanists are as follows: the Filicineae by H. CHRIST, Orchidaceae by O. PORSCHE, Gramineae by E. HACKEL, Melastomaceae by C. RECHINGER, Cyperaceae by E. PALLA, Malpighiaceae by C. KRALIK, Bromeliaceae by C. MEZ, Sapindaceae by L. RADLKOFER, Verbenaceae by A. VON HAYEK, Amarantaceae by A. HEIMERL, Gesneriaceae by K. FRITSCH, and the Eriocaulonaceae by W. RUHLAND. Several smaller families are also included. More than 1300 species are recorded from the various groups thus far elaborated, and of this number nearly 100 are new to science.

The new species are fully characterized, and the descriptions are mostly in Latin; the author of the Cyperaceae, however, has unfortunately chosen to describe the new species of this family in German, thus marring somewhat the uniformity of the work as a whole. The text is supplemented by numerous illustrations, and certain orchids are beautifully portrayed in color. The publication represents the work of eminent specialists and forms a reliable and valuable addition to the taxonomic literature pertaining to the flora of South America.—J. M. GREENMAN.

Vegetation of Java and Sumatra.—The first and second parts of the seventh series of KARSTEN and SCHENCK's now well-known *Vegetationsbilder*² is devoted to a dozen plates (with descriptive text) representing the plants of the volcanic regions of Java and Sumatra, and especially the reoccupation of those areas which have been at one time or another devastated by the erupted solid, liquid, or gaseous materials. Among others are three views from Krakatoa. This section by Dr. ERNST sustains the high standard of the work.—C. R. B.

¹ WETTSTEIN, R. VON, AND SCHIFFNER, V. *Ergebnisse der botanischen Expedition der kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften nach Südbrasilien 1901. I. Band. Pteridophyta und Anthophyta unter Mitwirkung zahlreicher Fachmänner herausgegeben von R. VON WETTSTEIN. Erster Halbband. Denkschr. Math.-Nat. Kl. Kais. Akad. Wiss.* **79**:1-313. *pls. 26. 1 map. figs. 12.* 1908.

² KARSTEN, G., AND SCHENCK, H., *Vegetationsbilder.* 4to. VII. Reihe, Heft 1, 2. ERNST, A., *Die Besiedelung vulkanischen Bodens auf Java und Sumatra.* *pls. 1-12.* Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1909. *M5.*